

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ADDIS 00126 110935Z  
ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04  
NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 /028 W  
-----111018Z 002264 /14  
R 101455Z JAN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2247  
INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 0126

PLEASE PASS DEPT OF LABOR AND SUBSTANCE TO AALC, NY

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, ELAB, ET  
SUBJ: ALL ETHIOPIAN TRADE UNION FORMED

REF: A. 76 ADDIS ABABA 12645, B. 76 ADDIS ABABA 11245  
C. 76 ADDIS ABABA 10938, D. 76 ADDIS ABABA 9960,  
E. 76 ADDIS ABABA 7027

SUMMARY: PROMINENT MEDIA COVERAGE GIVEN JAN 8 CEREMONY OF  
LTCOL MENGISTU HAILE-MARIAM, PMAC FIRST VICE-CHAIRMAN, PRE-  
SENTING CERTIFICATE CONFERRING LEGAL STATUS ON NEWLY-FORMED ALL  
ETHIOPIAN TRADE UNION (AETU). MENGISTU PRESENTED CERTIFICATE  
TO NEW AETU CHAIRMAN ATO TEWODROS BEKEE. HE ELECTED JAN 7,  
IN HAGERE-HIWOT (AMBO), 125 KM WEST OF ADDIS ABABA, AT CLOSE OF  
TEN-DAY MEETING OF 65 PERSONS ALLEGEDLY REPRESENTING 200,000  
WORKERS OF EIGHT OVERALL UNIONS.

ATO TEFERRA HILE SELASSIE, MINISTER OF LABOR AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS,  
ALSO SPOKE EXPLAINING NINE AETU EXECUTIVES AND THREE AUDITORS  
ELECTED DEMOCRATICALLY FROM EIGHT OVERALL UNIONS. GROUP ALSO  
ADOPTED NEW 20-ARTICLE UNION BY-LAW. END SUMMARY.

1. IN HIS FIRST MEDIA COVERAGE SINCE ANNOUNCEMENT OF PMAC REOR-  
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GANIZATION, LTCOL MENGISTU HAILE-MARIAM PRESENTED CERTIFI-  
CATE GRANTING AETU LEGAL STATUS TO ATO TEWODROS BAKELE, NEWLY-  
ELECTED AETU CHAIRMAN. (BIO NOTE: ATO TEWODROS ELECTED VICE-  
CHAIRMAN OF OVERALL UNION OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS  
WORKERS, OCT 26, (REFTEL B) AND WAS REPORTED TO BE MEM-  
BER OF ETHIOPIAN SEAMEN'S UNION. TEWODROS NOT REPEAT NOT  
SAME PERSON AS ASRAT BEKELE, UPON WHOM SPECULATION FOCUSED AS

POSSIBLE AETU CHAIRMAN, REFTTEL A). MENGISTU SEIZED PRESENTATION CEREMONY AS OPPORTUNITY TO PRAISE AETU AS BULWARK AND STIMULUS FOR FURTHER SUCCESS AND CONSOLIDATION OF REVOLUTION. HE NOTED ETHIOPIAN REVOLUTION UNIQUE BECAUSE ALTHOUGH WORKERS' PARTY NOT ESTABLISHED AND WORKERS HAD NOT YET ACQUIRED FULL DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS, THEY HAD LAID DOWN BASIC FOUNDATION FOR WORKERS' ULTIMATE OBJECTIVE, PRESUMABLY CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT WITH WORKERS PRE-EMINENT. MENGISTU STATED UNION MUST SERVE AS VANGUARD OF NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC REVOLUTION PROGRAM. HE REITERATED STANDARD RHETORIC AGAINST FORMER FEUDO-BOURGEOIS REGIME, REACTIONARIES, IMPERIALISTS AND EXTERNAL AND INTERNAL ENEMIES OF ETHIOPIA. HE ASSERTED SLOGAN OF "PROVISIONAL PEOPLE'S GOVERNMENT" OUTMODED AND HAD BEEN CREATED DELIBERATELY BY ANARCHISTS TO FOMENT TROUBLE AND CONFUSION.

2. MINISTER OF LABOR AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS, ATO TEFERA HAILE SELASSIE EXPLAINED AETU EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE DRAWN FROM EIGHT OVERALL UNIONS, DURING TEN-DAY MEETING IN HAGERE-HIWOT. MEETING ATTENDED BY ONLY 65 PERSONS WHO ALLEGED TO REPRESENT 200,000 WORKERS WHO GROUPED IN EIGHT OVERALL UNIONS THROUGHOUT COUNTRY. NINE AETU EXECUTIVES ELECTED ARE: ATO TEWODROS BEKELE, CHAIRMAN; AT TEMESGEN MADEBO, FIRST VICE-CHAIRMAN; AT ALEMU MAMMO AND ATO TEWODROS TSIGE MARKOS, SECOND VICE-CHAIRMEN; ATO TADESSE BIRBO, SECRETARY-GENERAL; ATO GETAHUN LEGESSE, FIRST DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL; ATO ATNAFU TACHE, DEPUTY SECRETARY; ATO KEBEDE GEBRE-MIKAEL, TREASURER; AND WOIZERIT ALMAZ ABEBE, DEPUTY SECRETARY. ADDITIONALLY, THREE AUDITORS WERE CHOSSES; ATO HABTE SELASSIE ZERAI, ATO GEORGE BELETE, AND ATO ASSEFA MAMMO. LABOR MINISTER ATO TEFERRA ALSO CONFIDENTIAL

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STATED AETU ADOPTED 20-ARTICLE BYLAW TO GOVERN UNION.

3. ONLY OTHER BIO INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT PRESENT IS:  
ATO ATNAFU TACHE -- ELECTED DEPUTY SECRETARY OF OVERALL UNION OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS WORKERS OCT 26 AND REPORTEDLY MEMBER OF DOCK WORKERS AND SHIPPING AGENTS UNION.  
ATO TEWODROS TSIGE MARKOS -- ELECTED SECRETARY OF OVERALL UNION OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS WORKERS OCT 26 AND REPORTEDLY ASSISTANCE PERSONNEL OFFICER OF ETHIOPIAN SHIPPING LINES. HE SELECTED AS IV ALTERNATE TO TRAVEL TO US, NOV 1975, FOR OBSERVATION OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS.  
ATO TEMESGEN MADEBO -- BELIEVED TO BE CHAIRMAN OF OVERALL AGRICULTURAL WORKERS UNION AND ALSO RUMORED TO HAVE BEEN CANDIDATE FOR AETU CHAIRMANSHIP. HE ALLEGEDLY WORKS AT WONJI SUGAR PLANTATION.

4. FURTHER BIO INFO AND EMBASSY COMMENTS WILL FOLLOW.  
TIENKEN

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED AALC.

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TRADE, ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICES, LABOR UNIONS, LABOR UNION OFFICIALS, CEREMONIAL MESSAGES  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
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**Retention:** 0  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
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**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ALL ETHIOPIAN TRADE UNION FORMED  
**TAGS:** PINT, ELAB, ET, (MENGISTU HAILE-MARIAN), (ATO TEWODROS BAKELE)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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